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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,475	01/09/2002	Kenneth E. Dahlberg	PM 98.086	6077
7590 11/17/2006			EXAMINER	
Keith A. Bell			ALHIJA, SAIF A	
ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company P.O. Box 2189			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Houston, TX 77252-2189			2128	
			DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application/Control Number: 10/042,475

Art Unit: 2128

Response to Reply Brief

1. The Reply Brief, filed 10/25/2006, has been received, carefully reviewed and entered. All issues have

been addressed in the Examiner's Answer. It is further noted that the Examiner in the Examiners Answer

has addressed Appellants arguments discussed in the General Remarks of the Reply Brief beginning on

Page 3 dated 7 September 2006. Specifically the arguments regarding the inherency of "aspect ratio" are

addressed in the beginning of the Response to Argument, Section 10, Page 8 in addition to Sections 10.1

and 10.10. The application is being forwarded to the Board of Appeals for further consideration.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

be directed to Saif A. Alhija whose telephone number is (571) 272-8635. The examiner can normally be

reached on M-F, 11:00-7:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Kamini Shah can be reached on (571) 272-2279. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained

from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 30, 2006

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINE

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